

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: April 2008

Next MEPAG Meetings:

MEPAG Meeting #19: September 18-19, 2008 in the Pasadena, California area, which will follow the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) Landing Site Workshop #3, September 15-17, 2008)

MEPAG Meeting #20: February 18-19, 2009 on the East Coast

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
4/02	Abstracts— 10th Asteroids, Comets and Meteors Conference (July 14-18, 2008)
4/2008	Abstracts— XV International Conference on the Origin of Life (August 24-29, 2008)
4/08	Registration deadline at a reduced rate— The Science of Solar System Ices
4/11	Registration deadline— Planetary Dunes Workshop: A Record of Climate Change (April 29-May 2, 2008)
4/11	Manuscripts submission, and end of early registration discount— SpaceOps2008 (May 12-16, 2008)
4/15	Early registration deadline— International Geological Congress Oslo 2008 (August 6-4, 2008)
4/29	Abstracts— NLSI Lunar Science Conference (July 20-23, 2008)
4/30	Early registration (discounted fee)— 6th International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering (August 11-16, 2008)
5/02	Abstracts and early registration— XV International Conference on the Origin of Life (August 24-29, 2008)
5/07	Abstracts— 71st Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society (July 28-August 1, 2008)
5/09	Abstracts— The Fifth Annual Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium (PTMSS) (June 8-11, 2008)
5/11	Early registration closes— Goldschmidt 2008 Conference (July 13-18, 2008)
5/12	Preregistration at a reduced rate— 10th Asteroids, Comets and Meteors Conference (July 14-18, 2008)
5/15	Abstracts— Conference on Large Meteorite Impacts and Planetary Evolution IV (August 17-21, 2008)
5/15	Early registration— 6th International Planetary Probe Workshop (June 23-27, 2008)
5/21	Indication of intent— Workshop on Early Solar System Impact Bombardment (September 15-17, 2008)
6/01	Abstracts— European Planetary Science Congress (September 21-26, 2008)
6/03	Abstracts— Geological Society of America national meeting (October 5-9, 2008)
6/24	Registration deadline— NLSI Lunar Science Conference (July 20-23, 2008)
6/30	Preregistration— 71st Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society (July 28-August 1, 2008)

Mars Science News

Dear colleagues,

We would like to inform you that the high-resolution **Digital Terrain Model** data set, based on data from the HRSC camera on Mars Express, has been released and is available from the ESA Planetary Science Archive.

The Web release: http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Mars_Express/SEM8Q2PR4CF_0.html

Access to the ESA archive: <http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=PSA>

Link to the Mars Express HRSC data viewer: <http://hrscview.fu-berlin.de/>

If you have any questions on the ESA archive, or on the use of the Digital Terrain Model please contact psahelp@rssd.esa.int

Kind regards,

Olivier Witasse

Mars Express Deputy Project Scientist

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>2008 Second Quarter, 2008</i>		
	April 13–18, 2008 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geophysical Union (EGU) Meeting PS3.2 Session on Mars Science and Exploration will address results from all ongoing missions to Mars, including Mars Express, as well as the future exploration of the Red Planet; including precursor robotic missions, Mars sample return missions and future human exploration. (Submitted by Agustin Chicarro, ESTEC, session convener) http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/
	April 15–17, 2008 Santa Clara, California	Astrobiology Science Conference (ABSciCon) 2008 Sessions will be held related to the major scientific themes: "The Astrophysical and Planetary Context for Life," "The Origin and Evolution of Life," and "The Search for Life in our Solar System and Beyond." Note Mars special sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Approaches and Technologies to Detect Life on Mars (Submitted by Dirk Schulze-Makuch, Washington State University)○ Session 26: Mars Sample Return Planning Issues http://abscicon.seti.org/ (Submitted by Margaret Race, SETI Institute/NASA Ames Research Center)
	April 17, 2008 Tucson, Arizona	2001 Mars Odyssey – 41st Project Science Group Meeting Contact Jeff Plaut, Jeffrey.J.Plaut@jpl.nasa.gov

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
	April 20–23, 2008 San Antonio, Texas	<p>American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) 2008 Annual Convention and Exposition—Deliver the Conventional, Pursue the Unconventional</p> <p>Expo held during Fiesta Week at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Note special sessions/workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Astrogeology - A Far-Sighted Look at Unconventional Resources ○ Return to the Moon: Research, Resources, and Rewards <p>http://www.aapg.org/sanantonio/ (Submitted by Cynthia Dinwiddie, SwRI, San Antonio, Texas)</p>
	April 21–23, 2008 Paris, FRANCE	<p>Mars Water Cycle Workshop</p> <p>The Muséum National d'Histoires Naturelles</p> <p>Detailed information regarding workshop attendance, registration, and abstract submission can be found at: http://www.aero.jussieu.fr/info-pratique/seminaire/MarsWC-Site (Submitted by Franck Montmessin, CNRS/IPSL, France)</p>
	April 21–23, 2008 Albuquerque, New Mexico	<p>Ground Truth From Mars: Science Payoff From a Sample Return Mission</p> <p>Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town</p> <p>Mars sample return is again on the horizon, enabled by a sample cache on the 2009 Mars Science Laboratory rover, and endorsed as a logical continuation of the "Follow the Water" strategy of NASA's Mars Exploration Program. The two-and-a-half day workshop will cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overviews: Mars exploration strategy, Mars sampling strategy enabled by previous missions ○ Sulfates, sheet silicates, and zeolites as recorders of Mars surface processes ○ Astrobiology priorities for sample return ○ Samples (i.e., igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks, regolith) recording Martian atmospheric, fluid, and magmatic evolution and timing of events <p>First Announcement: http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/msr2008/ (Submitted by Kimberly Taylor, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas)</p>
	April 27–May 1, 2008	<p>PHX ORT9 (dress rehearsal) Operational Readiness Test</p>
	April 29–30, 2008 Pasadena, California	<p>MRO PSG 19</p>
	April 29–May 2, 2008 Alamogordo, New Mexico	<p>Planetary Dunes Workshop: A Record of Climate Change http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2008/</p>
	May 5–8, 2008 Oxnard, California	<p>The Science of Solar System Ices (ScSSI): A Cross-Disciplinary Workshop</p> <p>Embassy Suites Mandalay Beach Hotel and Resort http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/scssi2008/</p>
	May 12–16, 2008 Heidelberg, GERMANY	<p>SpacOps2008</p> <p>Hosted by ESA and Eumetsat, organised by AIAA http://www.spaceops2008.org</p>

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
	May 21-23, 2008 Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri	Mars Express OMEGA-HRSC Data Workshop 3-day workshop at PDS Geosciences Node will provide graduate students, post Doctorals and other Mars investigators with a working knowledge of how to use the Mars Express OMEGA (Observatoire pour la Minéralogie, l'Eau, les Glaces et l'Activité) and HRSC (High Resolution Stereo Camera) data sets. http://www.rssd.esa.int/mexdataworkshops/ Interested participants should contact Tommy Thompson and advise their familiarity with IDL and with Mars Express. Thomas.W.Thompson@jpl.nasa.gov ; (818) 354-3881
	May 25, 2008	Phoenix mission landing on Mars Landing is at approximately 4:30 pm Pacific Time. PHX mission web site: http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/
	May 27-30 2008 Fort Lauderdale, Florida	AGU Joint Assembly http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja08/
	June 1-5, 2008 St. Louis, Missouri	Meeting #212 of the American Astronomical Society http://www.aas.org/
	June 8-11, 2008 Montreal, Quebec CANADA	The Fifth Annual Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium (PTMSS) Hosted by NORCAT Deadline for abstract: May 9, 2008 www.ptmss.com
	June 9-11, 2008 Madrid, Spain	Mars Express Data Workshops At ESAC. Intended to provide users of the Planetary Science Archive (PSA: http://www.rssd.esa.int/PSA/) and scientists interested in exploring and using ESA Mars Express data the possibility to meet members of Instrument Teams and get experience with basic data handling, processing and integration. Both scientific and technical lectures and hands-on are planned. June 9: Radio Science: Radio occultation data (neutral atmosphere and ionosphere) June 10-11: MARSIS data subsurface and ionosphere data. Useful: knowledge of MATLAB Attendance is limited to about 25 participants; first come, first served. Interested participants should send email with name, institution, Level: student, PhD, Post doc,... Interest for which data set: Radio-Science, MARSIS ionosphere, MARSIS subsurface. Contact Olivier Witasse, ESA, owitasse@rssd.esa.int http://www.rssd.esa.int/mexdataworkshops/
	June 16-18, 2008 Busan, KOREA	5th Asia Oceania Geosciences Society Meeting http://www.interridge.org/node/4893
	June 23-27, 2008 Atlanta, Georgia	6th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-6) at the Georgia Institute of Technology Deadline for early registration: May 15, 2008 http://www.planetaryprobe.org/
	June 25, 2008	Mars solstice (beginning of northern summer)

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
	June 29–July 3, 2008 Fairbanks, Alaska	Ninth International Conference on Permafrost (NICOP) Note special session: Planetary Permafrost and Astrobiology Campus of University of Alaska, Fairbanks Abstracts encouraged from the planetary science community studying permafrost and icy surfaces throughout the Solar System and from the astrobiology community interested in organisms living or preserved in ice or permafrost. http://nicop.org/ (Submitted by Chris McKay, NASA Ames Research Center)
<i>Third Quarter, 2008</i>		
	July 13-18, 2008 Vancouver, BC, CANADA	Goldschmidt 2008 Conference Theme 2, Session #02b: Surface Geochemistry and Processes on Mars http://www.goldschmidt2008.org/index (Submitted by Nick Tosca, Harvard University)
	July 13–20, 2008 Montreal, Quebec CANADA	37th COSPAR Scientific Assembly http://www.cospar-assembly.org/
	July 14–18, 2008 Baltimore, Maryland	10th Asteroids, Comets and Meteors Conference Abstract deadline: April 2, 2008 Deadline for preregistration at a reduced rate: May 12 Contact: Margaret Simon, Margaret.simon@jhuapl.edu http://acm2008.jhuapl.edu/
 	July 20-23, 2008 Moffett Field, California	NLSI Lunar Science Conference NASA Ames Conference Center Abstract deadline: April 29, 2008 Registration deadline: June 24, 2008 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/nlsc2008/ (Submitted by Will Marshall, NASA Ames Research Center)
	July 28–August 1, 2008 Matsue, JAPAN	71st Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Deadline for abstracts: May 7, 2008 Deadline for pre-registration: June 30, 2008 http://www.metsoc2008.jp/
	August 6–14, 2008 Oslo, NORWAY	The 33rd International Geological Congress A disciplinary symposium in Comparative Planetology, with a special session PIP-02 The Geology of Mars and Venus results. Other sessions in Impact Structures. Early registration deadline: April 15, 2008 http://www.33igc.org/ (Submitted by Jouko Raitala, University of Oulu, FINLAND)
 	August 11–16, 2008 Arlington, Virginia	Sixth International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering One of the themes is "Application of Geotechnical Engineering in Outer Space, including Granular Material Behavior in Lunar and Martian Environments; Extraterrestrial Mining, Construction, and Transportation Infrastructure Development". Deadline for early registration (discounted fee): April 30, 2008 http://www.6icchg2008.org

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
	August 17–21, 2008 Vredefort Dome, SOUTH AFRICA	Conference on Large Meteorite Impacts and Planetary Evolution IV Sunwa River Lodge Deadline for abstracts: May 15, 2008 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lmi2008/lmi2008.2nd.shtml
	August 24–29, 2008 Florence, ITALY	XV International Conference on the Origin of Life Deadline for abstracts and early registration: May 2, 2008 Sponsor: The International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life http://www.dbag.unifi.it/issol2008/Invitation.htm
	September 15-17, 2008 Houston, Texas	Workshop on the Early Solar System Impact Bombardment Lunar and Planetary Institute One of the legacies of the Apollo program is the concept of late heavy bombardment or a lunar cataclysm that may have resurfaced the Moon and thermally metamorphosed its crust. Several recent studies have continued to test that concept and explore the implications any bombardment may have for our understanding of lunar evolution and early evolution of life on Earth. Deadline for indication of intent: May 21, 2008 Deadline for abstracts: July 2, 2008 Final announcement and workshop program will be posted by August 6, 2008. http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2008/
 	September 15-17, 2008 Pasadena, California	MSL (Mars Science Laboratory) 3rd Landing Site Workshop Open to the Mars Community Contact Matt Golombek golombek@jpl.nasa.gov Submitted by Ashwin Vasavada, JPL
 	September 18-19, 2008 Pasadena, California	MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting #19 Contact Jack Mustard, john_mustard@brown.edu
	September 22–26, 2008 Münster, GERMANY	European Planetary Science Congress (EPSC) University Münster. Deadline for abstracts: June 1, 2008 Deadline for preregistration: August 15, 2008 http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc2008/ Contact Harald Hiesinger: hiesinger@uni-muenster.de
 	September 25-28, 2008 New Mexico	Caves of Mars Field Meeting: Lavatubes and their extraterrestrial analog value for Mars, and possibly other bodies Sponsored by the Association of Mars Explorers, a non-formal group who have either had a mission on Mars, or who have worked extensively in analog environments. September 25-26: Field meeting on site, El Malpais National Monument, Grants, NM. September 27-28: Chaco Canyon field trip Contact: Penny Boston, pboston@nmt.edu Caves of Mars Project: http://www.highmars.org/niac/

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
	September 29– October 3, 2008 Glasgow, SCOTLAND	59th International Astronautical Congress This event includes a Space Exploration Symposium the whole week, with sessions on astronomy, the Moon, Mars, advanced concepts, and solar system exploration) Deadline for early registration with discount: August 1, 2008 http://www.iafastro.com/
	October 5–9, 2008 Houston, Texas	Geological Society of America national meeting Deadline for abstracts: June 3, 2008 Deadline for pre-registration: August 2008 http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	October 10–15, 2008 Ithaca, New York	40th Annual Meeting of the DPS Deadline for abstracts: August 1, 2008 Deadline for early preregistration: September 1, 2008 http://www.aas.org/~dps/meetings.html
	October 20–24, 2008 Moab, Utah	Second Workshop on Mars Valley Networks Sponsors: The Smithsonian Institution and University of Virginia Valley networks represent the best evidence that water once flowed across the surface of ancient Mars. This workshop will provide a forum for discussing the extraction of watershed information from digital elevation models of the martian surface, age-dating valley network systems, and other quantitative measurements of valley networks. A field trip to look at sapping features in the Colorado Plateau is also planned. Contact nasmworkshop@si.edu , or Bob Craddock (craddockb@si.edu) (Submitted by Bob Craddock, Smithsonian Institution, workshop convener)
	October 27–31, 2008 Florida	10th ILEWG International Conference on Exploration and Utilization of the Moon (ICEUM10/ILC2008) (Dates TBC near LRO launch) http://sci.esa.int/ilewg
	November 10–14, 2008 Williamsburg, Virginia	3rd International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modeling and Observations Sponsor: The Lunar and Planetary Institute Contacts: Joel S. Levine joel.s.levine@nasa.gov and Francois Forget Francois.Forget@lmd.jussieu.fr
	November 2008	End of MRO Primary Science Phase; transition to Relay Phase
	November 18, 2008	Start of Mars solar conjunction
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2008</i>		
	December 15–19, 2008 San Francisco, California	Fall meeting, AGU www.agu.org/meetings
	December 24, 2008	End of Mars solar conjunction
	December 26, 2008	Mars equinox (beginning of northern fall)

2009		
	January 7–10, 2009 Long Beach, California	Meeting #213 of the American Astronomical Society http://www.aas.org/
	February 2009 East Coast	MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting #20
	March 2009 Houston, Texas	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference Deadline for abstracts: TBD
	April 2009 Noordwijk, THE NETHERLANDS	International Conference on Comparative Planetology: Venus-Earth-Mars at ESTEC Contact: Augustin Chicarro— Augustin.Chicarro@esa.int
	June 2009	Fourth MSL Landing Site workshop
	June 7–11, 2009 Pasadena, California	Meeting #214 of the American Astronomical Society http://www.aas.org/
	July 7–12, 2009 Melbourne, Australia	7th International Conference on Geomorphology Ancient Landscapes – Modern Perspectives Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre There will be dedicated sessions on Planetary Geomorphology and a field trip to examine analog landscapes in South Australia. http://www.geomorphology2009.com/ (Submitted by Mary Bourke, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, Arizona)
	July 13–18, 2009 Nancy, FRANCE	72nd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Marc Chaussidon, Guy Libourel or Bernard Marty http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2009	2009 Mars Launch Period Opens
	October 4–9, 2009 San Juan, Puerto Rico	41st Annual Meeting DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 18–21, 2009 Portland, Oregon	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 15–19, 2009 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
2010		
	January 3–7, 2010 Washington, DC	Meeting #215 of the American Astronomical Society http://www.aas.org/
	March 2010 Houston, Texas	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	June 6–10, 2010 Miami, Florida	Meeting #216 of the American Astronomical Society http://www.aas.org/
	July 18–25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly

	July 25 OR August 1, 2010 Toronto, Ontario CANADA	73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Dr. G. Srinivasan http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2010	42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 31– November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2011</i>		
	January 2011 Seattle, Washington	Meeting # 217 of the American Astronomical Society http://www.aas.org/
	June 2011 Boston, Massachusetts	Meeting # 218 of the American Astronomical Society http://www.aas.org/
	July 2011 Pasadena, California	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology
	August 2011 Greenwich ENGLAND, UK	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2011 Nice, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Trevor Ireland http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	The 34th International Geological Congress http://www.33igc.org/

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings:

Rosh Hashanah	9/30/2008	9/19/2009	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012
Yom Kippur	10/9/2008	9/28/2009	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Good Friday	3/21/08	4/10/09	4/2/10	4/22/11	
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/27/08	11/26/09	11/25/10		
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/13/08	10/12/09	10/11/10		

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EDITORS

Debbie Calderón	Debbie.A.Calderon@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-9470
Charles Budney	Charles.J.Budney@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-3981
David Beaty	David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-7968

Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Debbie Calderón, Debbie.A.Calderon@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-354-9470

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.